



# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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## **SBA Administrator Hector Barreto: House Approval of Association Health Plans Good News for Small Business**

**WASHINGTON** – Hector V. Barreto, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration today released the following statement about the U.S. House of Representative's approval of legislation that would allow for the creation of Association Health Plans (AHPs):

"The House's passage of Association Health Plans is good news for millions of small-business owners and their employees, because it means they are closer to being able to purchase health insurance that is significantly more affordable than the limited options they have today.

"The majority of small business owners want to provide health insurance for their employees and their dependents, but costs have skyrocketed in recent years. In fact, most small businesses have identified access to affordable health care as the most difficult issue they face.

"Small business is the sector that will be creating the jobs necessary for our country's full economic recovery. Allowing them to band together to bring down their health insurance costs is one of the best ways to give them the financial breathing room they need to create those jobs."

*For information about SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640 or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). The SBA, in co-sponsorship with Staples, has introduced an online newsletter **SBA Solutions**. For a free subscription, go to <http://web.sba.gov/list> and select New **SBA Solutions Newsletter**.*

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